

Josephine County Crime Briefs: TALES ...

by Sam Marsh, KLDR 104.5 FM / KAJO 1270 AM / 99.7 FM

The Oregon State Police jailed a Cave Junction man on numerous outstanding warrants out of multiple law enforcement agencies following a weekend traffic stop just south of Grants Pass. OSP reports troopers pulled over a Land Rover driven by 26-year-old Gavin Deroyce Gunter on New Hope Road near Teel Lane Sunday at 1:28 a.m.. Troopers said they stopped Gunter for a traffic violation and they immediately discovered that his driver’s license was suspended. A routine records check then revealed that he was wanted on 10 outstanding warrants out of multiple local agencies containing a total of 15 alleged crimes. Charges contained in the warrants included felony possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession of more than four ounces of marijuana and carrying a concealed weapon. Gavin Gunter was transported to the Josephine County Jail where he was lodged. His vehicle was impounded.

Posted on Jan. 14, 2019 11:06 a.m. by Sam Marsh

A Selma woman was arrested by the Oregon State Police following a weekend fight with her daughter. OSP reports troopers responded to a disturbance at an apartment in the 100-block of Hogue Drive Jan. 12 shortly before 8 p.m.. Troopers said they arrested 49-year-old Lisa Sessions at the scene for threatening her pregnant 32-year-old daughter with a knife. They said there were several witnesses to the crime including two men and three children -- all family members. Sessions was transported to Grants Pass and booked into the Josephine County Jail for menacing. A charge of unlawful use of a weapon was referred to the District Attorney’s Office for consideration.

The Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) was investigating a Sunday morning blaze that destroyed a pickup and camper in the Selma area.

According to IVFD, firefighters responded to a reported vehicle fire on Clear Creek Road near Redwood Highway at about 11:25 a.m. Jan. 13.

Upon arrival, crews found a four-door pickup with camper shell fully engulfed in flames. Crews quickly extinguished the blaze, but the truck and camper were totally destroyed.

IVFD Public Information Officer Ned Booth said the residents of a nearby home were not injured. He said the cause of the fire was under investigation by the IVFD Fire Marshal.

Traffic control was provided by the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

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Two Cave Junction men with past criminal histories were arrested for felony weapons, parole and probation violations Jan. 8, after a short early morning pursuit. The Josephine County Sheriff’s Office reports 31-year-old Travis David Bohn and 24-year-old Jacob Owen Salas were placed into custody near the corner of Hussey Lane and River Street Tuesday at about 7:30 a.m.. During a consent search, a stolen firearm was located in the vehicle. Bohn and Salas

were both charged with felon in possession of a firearm. Bohn was also charged with parole violation stemming from a previous conviction for felony attempt to elude police. Salas was additionally charged with probation violation connected to a previous arrest for first-degree theft. Travis Bohn and Jacob Salas were transported to Grants Pass where they were lodged without bail in the Josephine County Jail. The stolen gun was seized.

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The Grants Pass City Council is in favor of putting two ballot measures in front of voters as soon as possible.

During its weekly workshop session on Monday, the City Council informally voted unanimously to include ballot measures for a gas tax and changes to the Charter on the May Special Election ballot.

If approved by Grants Pass voters, the gas tax of three cents per gallon will eliminate the current transportation utility fee of \$3.59 per month paid by single family homes on city utility bills. It would raise approximately \$1.48 million annually to help the City maintain an estimated 142 miles of streets.

Grants Pass City Manager Aaron Cubic said the gas tax would create more revenue for street maintenance than the transportation utility fee and the cost would be paid not only by city residents who purchase gas -- but also visitors to the city. He said a recent survey shows 56 percent of the gas purchased in the city is bought by visitors.

If approved by voters, changes to the Grants Pass City Charter will include a \$1,000 monthly stipend paid to members of the City Council and Mayor. The money would come from the General Fund and/or the City Council budget with no financial impact to city residents.

Official approval of including these measures on the May ballot will come on February 6th. The cost of putting them on the ballot could be up to \$27,000.

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The ex-wife of a Grants Pass man killed last weekend in a woodcutting accident was arrested the next day for exhibitions of bad behavior. The Josephine County Sheriff’s Office reports 42-year-old Jessica Freedman of Grants Pass was arrested Sunday at a residence in the 400-block of Hitching Post Road. Freedman reportedly went to her ex-husband’s church the day after he was killed and also tried to go to the remote site of the fatal mishap. She was arrested after causing a disturbance at the residence by yelling that she wanted her kids, even though her ex-husband had been granted full legal custody. Jessica Freedman was transported to Grants Pass and lodged in the Josephine County Jail on a charge of menacing. Leo Freedman was harvesting burl wood on Saturday afternoon when he was struck in the head with a chain saw and died at the scene.

\*Gilbert Alfred, 48, had two misdemeanor warrants for failure to appear for driving while license was revoked and contempt/failure to comply with terms of diversion. Alfred was detained in JCJ following his arrest near W. River Street and N. Kerby Avenue at 10:29 a.m.

\*Merle Leonard Southard, Jr., was arrested at 4:37 p.m. in the 400 block of S. Old Stage Road (Proof that squirrels don’t hibernate.) Southard was detained in JCJ for a felony warrant from Grants Pass Department of Public Safety for elude, and a felony warrant from JCSO for probation violation/elude.

**Wednesday, Jan. 9**

\*A brown 1986 Toyota long-bed pickup truck was stolen from the 5100 block of Lakeshore Drive between late afternoon Jan. 7 and 9 a.m. Jan. 9.

\*Law enforcement apprehended two suspects in a gold-colored Honda Civic in the 19000 block of Redwood Hwy. Chase Best, 31, was taken into custody at 12:19 p.m. for an Oregon Parole Board felony warrant for probation violation for unauthorized use of a vehicle. Best was detained in JCJ.

**Thursday, Jan. 10**

\*People had been living in a white 1990 Ford F-250 pickup truck in the 300 block of S. Redwood Hwy. since Dec. 19. They were using candles at night to keep warm. A citizen was concerned that a fire would occur.

**Friday, Jan. 11**

\*A 1987 Toyota 4Runner was stolen from the 37000 block of Redwood Hwy. Jan. 6, and the theft was reported Jan. 10. The owner’s daughter found the truck on its side near Redwood Hwy. two miles from their home.

\*Disturbing incidents have recently occurred at Illinois Valley Visitor’s Center in the 200 block of Caves Hwy. On Dec. 26, a rock was thrown in the back window. On Jan. 3 a homeless man threatened an employee. A window was shattered, and garbage items were thrown around Jan. 10. So far, no unwelcome visitor has gained entry.

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